

Fall 1996

Starburst

Your DOE-VPP News Source

WELCOME BACK! This edition of Starburst comes to you after a year hiatus. Since the last newsletter, the DOE-VPP has continued to expand. Our program, which the Departmental management strongly supports, has gained two new Star sites — the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant and the AlliedSignal Kansas City Plant. Aiding this expansion are two new staff members on the EH DOE-VPP team. **Dave Smith**, an industrial hygienist, comes to us after extensive field work with the enhanced work planning initiative, the hazardous waste initiative and emergency response. He brings an intimate acquaintance with the Savannah River Site and a detailed knowledge of OSHA regulations (after being with OSHA for over 10 years). **Dan Marsick**, a certified industrial hygienist and safety professional,

has been involved off and on with the DOE-VPP since last year. His work with the hazwoper training initiative is coming to a close so we look forward to seeing him around more often. Dan has expertise in laboratory safety, chemical handling, hazard communication, training, and hazardous waste. He has been the editor of the DOE OSH Technical Reference Manual and the OSHA Technical Manual.

This issue highlights recent field activities, headquarters publications and outreach communications. Because of limited space, descriptions of these activities are minimized. Most articles contain a contact for further information. Future editions should appear quarterly beginning in Fiscal Year 1997.



AlliedSignal, FM&T, Plant in Kansas City, MO achieved STAR status in the DOE VPP program. They join the Westinghouse Waste Isolation Pilot Plant as a STAR site. Dr. Tara O'Toole will present the flag on October 1, 1996.

DOE-VPP Homepage

The DOE-VPP homepage is accessible at <http://tis.eh.doe.gov/systems/vpp/links.html>. The DOE-VPP team is continually adding to and upgrading the home page. Though the team has not completed its full home page modifications, we have started to



upload more recent documents to the present home page. This process may take up to four months. In the future, the DOE-VPP homepage will feature the full text of the field happenings mentioned in Starburst. Starburst will also be available electronically.

The Power of Partnership

The 12th Annual VPPPA conference, will take place from September 17 to 20, 1996. All those involved in DOE-VPP are invited to attend. Call or write the VPPPA at 1-800-309-5349. Last year's conference in Washington, D.C. resulted in a terrific information exchange among DOE contractors and Feds, OSHA and industry. Orlando, here we come!



Happenings

To enhance inter-Site communication and promote DOE-VPP, the Headquarters staff has increased its outreach efforts. Each OSHA region is assigned a DOE-VPP customer representative from Headquarters. The following regional news is headed by the name of the Headquarters DOE-VPP regional representative.

NORTHWEST

Nancy Hammond
301-903-1731

(WA,OR,ID,MT,ND,SD,WY,UT,CO)
During the week of July 15th, Nancy Hammond visited **Lockheed-Martin Idaho Technologies Company (LMITCO)** at **INEL** to learn about their DOE-VPP effort. A five-member team from LMITCO, consisting of union, exempt and management personnel, enthusiastically reported on their recent visit to Star Enterprises in Port Arthur, Texas, their Outreach partner. Nancy met with the VPP Steering Committee, two safety teams and LMITCO's VPP champions to exchange information and ideas. The energy level at LMITCO to succeed in DOE-VPP is about as hot as the recent brush fires.

Westinghouse Hanford has a new DOE-VPP point-of-contact - Danny Henry. His phone is 509-376-8872. Danny is sponsoring a workshop on effective safety meetings at the VPPPA conference in Orlando this September. Dennis Wiatrak continues to be involved in DOE-VPP, but is focusing on new assignments. Welcome, Danny, and thanks, Dennis for all your great efforts!

NORTHEAST/ MIDWEST

Dan Marsick
301-903-3954

(NY,NJ,MN,WI,IL,IN,MI,OH)
After a small lapse, **West Valley Nuclear Services, Inc.** is again looking at submitting a DOE-VPP application. A program involving safety store coupons recognizes individuals for their exemplary safe attitude, behavior, and actions. The criteria for giving out a safety coupon are as follows:

- Consistent, good housekeeping (no office avalanches or tripping hazards) and/or good personal safety (using crosswalks and handrails consistently).
- Above average/out of the ordinary safety behaviors.
- Reporting/correcting safety hazards.
- Stop work actions.
- Recognizing and reporting an emergency situation.
- Intervention for another person's safety ("Good Samaritan").

All West Valley Demonstration Project personnel are eligible to receive or give out safety coupons. An employee observing a safe practice that falls within the identified criteria may request a coupon for their coworker. (Submitted by Paul Szalinski, 716-942-4518)

After the December 7, 1995 presentation by Kathy Lea of the VPPPA, **Fluor-Daniel at the Fernald Environmental Management Project (FEMP)** completed a draft DOE-VPP application. In April, work groups across the FEMP reviewed the draft. Work groups are teams of employees empowered to correct safety hazards and improve work processes. As of June 21, this draft had been distributed to 105 work groups, with the goal of getting participation from at least half the FEMP work groups. (Submitted by Audrey Hannum, 513-648-4332)

CENTRAL

Raymond Rogers
301-903-7331

(NE,IA,KS,MO,NM,OK,AR,LA,TX)
Westinghouse at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) is mentoring an Arizona copper mining company in a first-of-a-kind agreement. The Cyprus Miami Mining Corporation near Phoenix, Ariz., is receiving assistance under a mentoring agreement. For the first time ever, the Voluntary Protection Program Participants' Association (VPPPA) has named a DOE-VPP Star Site to mentor a private industry. The Cyprus Miami Mining Corporation submitted an application to OSHA-VPP in July 1996. Waste Isolation Division personnel will do a mock OSHA onsite review in August. Final status of the site should be announced in October after the State of Arizona evaluates their program. Arizona has its own VPP as one of OSHA's state plan states. (Submitted by Jayne Davis, 505-234-8499)

In May 1996, the DOE-AL received a draft of the **Mason and Hangar/Batelle Memorial Institute (Pantex)** DOE-VPP application with a request for a pre-onsite review. The Operations Office fielded a team the week of June 10. The Pantex DOE-VPP Steering Committee received DOE approval for a new accountability/incentive Program, Safe Work Award Program (SWAP), which exchanges safe work for dollars. There is a large metal pig, representing the Pantex Piggy Bank, at each entrance to the plant. The pigs display the status of the \$250 available to each Pantex employee. A deduction occurs for every lost workday case, recordable injury/illness, and late report of first aid. Each person employed at Pantex on September 30, 1996 will receive the balance. A program for individual accountability awards \$50 to each person not having one of the above mentioned instances occur during the fiscal year. These employ-

ees are also eligible for a drawing for \$5000 in prizes. Volunteer Hazard. Identification Teams (HITs) have been inspecting their respective areas since July 1995. (Submitted by Patrice Ford, 806-477-4640)

MK-Ferguson at the Weldon Spring Site Remedial Action Project (WSSRAP) located in St. Charles, Missouri is host to several successful employee programs, such as "Time Out For Safety" and daily "Bluecard Checklist Surveillances". Representatives from different subject areas have formed a working group. This group will conduct a thorough review of the Site's safety and health programs and complete the application process. The WSSRAP working group has utilized approximately 225 manhours throughout the last three months and has completed approximately 90 percent of the written application.

SOUTHEAST

David Smith

301-903-4669

(KY,TN,NC,SC,GA,FL,MS,AL,VA)
After starting in November 1995, the **Lockheed Martin Energy Systems (Oak Ridge K-25)** VPP Program office, using Audit Profiles VPP protocol review software, conducted interviews for management commitment and employee involvement. They are now doing worksite analysis. (Submitted by Andy Griffin, 423-241-2434)

DOE awarded **Westinghouse/Bechtel (Savannah River Site)** extra fees in recognition of their world-class environment, safety and health program. Monthly safety meetings show management commitment. As for employee commitment, thousands of employees have successfully completed the WSRC Safety Observer Program. EH is reviewing the Westinghouse/Bechtel DOE-VPP application. A scoping visit is planned soon.

SOUTHWEST/ WEST

Sanji Kanth

301-903-4516

(CA,NV,AZ)

Nancy Hammond, Dave Smith, and Andy Salcedo (OSHA Region IX) made a scoping visit to **Bechtel Petroleum Operations, Inc.** (Tuppan, CA) in April. They made several recommendations to the site on their process safety management program, management accountability, and job safety analyses. The OSHA-VPP team member is closely working with Bechtel to resolve their process safety management issues. The Site has fully implemented a Safe Worker Observer Program recently. (Submitted by Kurt Brown)

Bechtel Nevada was selected as the new operating contractor at **Nevada Test Site** in January 1996. Before this integration, the site had three different contractors: Reynolds Engineering Company (REECO), EG&G, and Raytheon. All these contractors were pursuing DOE-VPP status independently of each other. Bechtel, which employs over two thousand employees, submitted their first draft DOE-VPP application to Nevada Operations Office in May of this year. The final application will be submitted to the Operations Office in September. (Submitted by Ruby Lopez Owens, 702-295-0953)

HEADQUARTERS

Ron Eimer

301-903-4435

Do you have a full 4-volume set of the DOE-VPP program documents? Part I: Program Elements (Oct 1994); Part II: Procedures Manual (October 1994), Part III: Application Guidelines (April 1995), Part IV: Onsite Review Handbook (July 1995). If you need copies, contact the DOE-VPP team at 301-903-4435. (Submitted by Ray Rogers, 301-903-7331).

From June 17 to 20, Sanji Kanth, Ron Eimer, Bob Barber and Dave Smith visited the Oxychem Plant in Delaware City, Delaware while working with OSHA on their VPP Team. This plant produces 400 tons of elemental chlorine per day. Sodium hydroxide, potassium hydroxide and hydrogen are by-products. OSHA subsequently approved this site for STAR status.

Roy Gibbs authored an article on "Department of Energy Rewards Safe Contractors" in the July 1995 issue of Safety + Health (National Safety Council magazine) (Submitted by Daniel Marsick, 301-903-3954)



Focus on Programs

Contractor Programs of Note

This space will be used to highlight unusual contractor programs which successfully advance implementation of the elements of the DOE-VPP. Abstracts of the following programs are still available through an earlier DOE effort called OSH Worker Protection Pilots: Asbestos Management, Confined Space Entry, Electrical Safety, Hazard Communication, Lockout/Tagout, Hearing Conservation, Laboratory Standard, Respiratory Protection, Site Safety Meetings, Video Display Terminals, and Hot Environments. Contact Dan Marsick at 301-903-3954.



An unofficial publication



Personal Notes

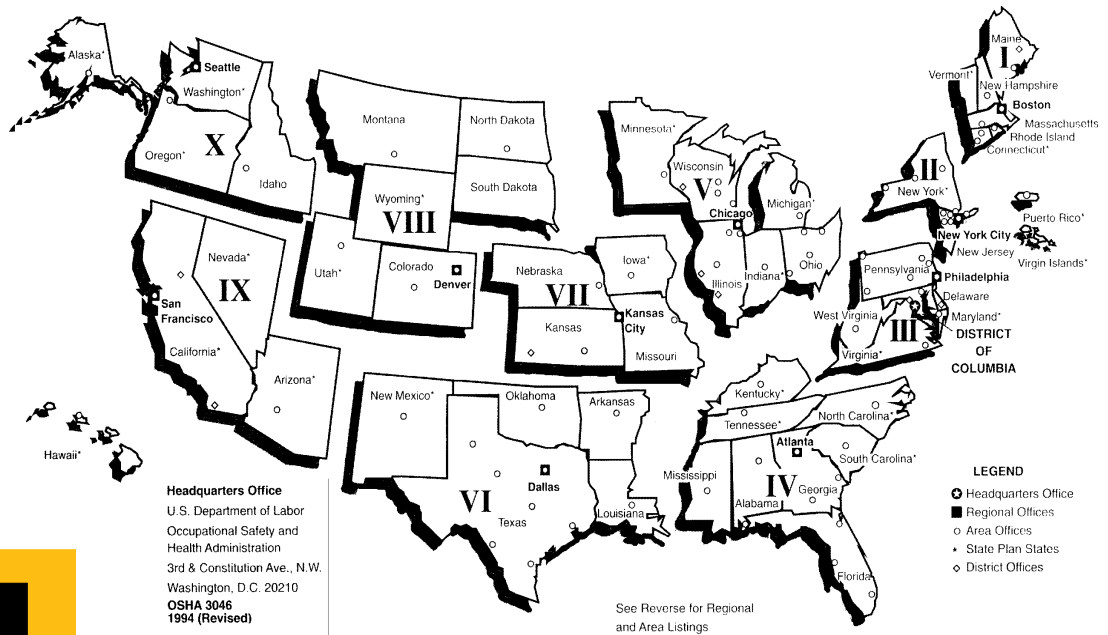
Congratulations to Allied Signal for job well done! Dave Smith and Dan Marsick saw recent high school graduates. The U. of Mississippi at Oxford and Clemson University will welcome them. Meanwhile, Dee Young's daughter enters her sophomore year at Frostburg State University (summer training camp for the Washington Redskins).

Nancy Hammond visited Newfoundland and Maine this summer. Then she spent time at INEL, helping them with their DOE-VPP application. Ray Rogers is getting much sun in frequent visits to his daughter's Orlando home. He plans to visit Weldon Springs to give some assistance.

Send contributions to the editor

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Calendar

- Sept 2 Labor Day**
- Sept 17-20 VPPPA Conference, Orlando, Florida. Contact VPPPA at 703- 761-1146.**
- October 1 Star Flag Ceremony at AlliedSignal Plant in Kansas City, MO.**
- October 25 (tentative) Deadline for Winter 1996 Starburst**